3rd Annual Eastern Regional Campus Compact Conference

Philadelphia played host this year to the 2013 Campus Compact Annual Conference which took place October 23-25, 2013. NJ Campus Compact Executive Director Saul Petersen participated in organizing the conference. Stockton Center for Community Engagement (SCCE) Faculty Fellows Joseph Rubenstein and Jennifer Barr attended with Reva Curry, Beth Olsen, Daniel Tomé, Sonia Gonsalves, Bill Reynolds, Susan Davenport and Provost Harvey Kesselman. Student Fellows Jennifer Love, Morgan Trunicale and Amy Toomin also attended. Stockton College had the largest number of attendees at the event. The conference focused on the scholarship of engagement and service and attracted members from higher education institutions from Maine to Florida.

On the heels of the conference a Faculty Engagement Workshop was held on October 29th for new faculty, cosponsored by the SCCE and the Institute for Faculty Development (IFD). The SCCE Faculty Fellows shared what they had learned from the conference: how community engagement activities can enhance teaching, service and scholarship work for promotion and tenure consideration. As an example, Dr. Galantino presented a video of her engagement work in Haiti highlighting her work with DPT students in the ravished country. The DPT program has revised its mission to center on community health and is currently working to establish a pro bono clinic within Atlantic City.

What is Engagement?

Recently the New York Times online published excerpts tackling the definition of Civic and Community Engagement from Civic Responsibility and Higher Education, edited by Thomas Ehrlich, published by Oryx Press, 2000. The definitions offered are clear and concise...

Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes. – Preface, page vi

A morally and civically responsible individual recognizes himself or herself as a member of a larger social fabric and therefore considers social problems to be at least partly his or her own; such an individual is willing to see the moral and civic dimensions of issues, to make and justify informed moral and civic judgments, and to take action when appropriate. – Introduction, page xxvi

Main Street and Downtown Spaces Meeting

On November 22 the SCCE will host the first in a series of community discussions regarding the development of Main Street and Downtown Spaces.

The meeting will be attended by local mayors, administrators and Main Street executive directors. The intention for the first discussion will be to create an opportunity for community leaders to speak on common concerns and to brainstorm on ways the College community can provide assistance. Faculty and staff interested in working long-term on these concerns are encouraged to attend.

The meeting will take place from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in Campus Center Meeting Room 5.

Day of Service
- November 16-24, 2013

The Office of Service-Learning will be hosting “Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week 2013” as a part of their “Semester of Service.” The week will feature various events and challenges that test our understanding and perception of food security and poverty in the region. See the Service-Learning website for more details.